Creation Matters

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In Memoriam Dr. Kevin L. Anderson (1957-2022)

by Jean K. Lightner, D.V.M., M.S.

I believe I first met Dr. Kevin Anderson around 2005 as he was manning a Creation Research Society (CRS) booth at some event. I enjoyed talking with him. In fact, I believe I talked with him at a few later events when he again was manning the CRS booth. Yet, it wasn't until a few years later that I would get to know him, and really appreciate his contributions to creation science.

When I was elected to the CRS board of directors (BOD) in 2009, Kevin was the CRS lab director at the Van Andel Creation Research Center (VACRC), a position he held from 2003 until his untimely death in 2022. He had a deep understanding of how research should be done, and of the implications of the findings. Kevin was the major force behind the CRS iDINO project and moved it forward through its various phases. This research provides powerful evidence against the "millions of years" historical narrative contrived and promoted by evolutionists.

Dr. Anderson and I had similar backgrounds—he grew up on a dairy farm; I studied animal science and veterinary medicine; he and I both studied microbiology; and we both worked for the USDA—as such, it was always a joy to be able to have deep discussions with Kevin on biological topics. There was a lot we agreed on, including scientific definitions of terms, as opposed to definitions which brought in philosophical baggage. We worked together to begin another lab project, the eKINDS research initiate, which has yielded a half dozen articles from several different authors, including the late Jon Ahlquist, a renowned ornithologist.

From 2003 to 2013, Kevin served as editor for the *Creation Research Society Quarterly* (*CRSQ*). His keen scientific insight coupled with his excellent writing and editing skills, made him an amazing editor. During those years, the *Quarterly* often carried some of the most well-written, thought-provoking editorials I have ever read by a creationist. Kevin understood both the creation and the evolutionary worldviews very well and he could cut through evolutionary rhetoric right to the core of the matter. This was also evident in some of his presentations I was privileged to attend.

Kevin was far more than just a deep thinker and articulate speaker and writer; he also cared deeply for CRS. This was evident in the many personal sacrifices he made to keep The Society strong. For example, during the severe economic downturn of 2008, Kevin realized that

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Math Matters

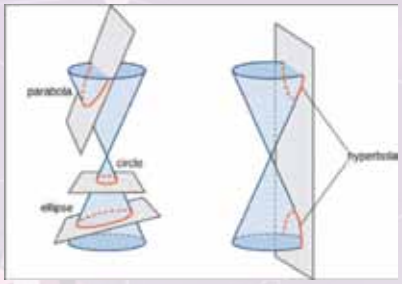
Conic Curves and Creation

by Don DeYoung, PhD

Imagine taking two ice cream cones, placing them tip to tip, and then slicing through them in various directions. As the figures show, this forms distinct curves called conic sections. Ellipses, parabolas, and hyperbolas were studied by the early Greeks and are used to this day in many applications including architecture, art, and space science. The three-dimensional extensions of conic curves are called ellipsoids, paraboloids, and hyperboloids.

The attractive gravitational force between any two objects diminishes as the inverse square of their separation distance. As a result, the trajectories of interacting objects in space follow the paths of conic curves. That is, the mathematics of slices through a cone match exactly the gravitational interactions of space objects. This mathematical symmetry is often taken for granted; however, the wonder and mystery of mathematics in nature were expressed in a classic 1960 essay by physicist Eugene Wigner, "The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics in the Natural Sciences." The creation worldview recognizes that mathematics is the imbedded language throughout nature.

Ellipses describe the paths of all orbiting objects including planets and earth's satellites, as shown by Kepler around 1605. As you can picture with slicing the ice cream cones, even a perfect circle is a kind of ellipse, although natural satellites never follow such an unvarying ellipse. The planet Venus has the most circular orbit while Pluto follows the most elliptical path. On a practical



Adapted from OpenStax figure 2 at https://cnx.org/contents/RAdKNUjT@2/Conic-Sections.

level, some readers may exercise on an elliptical trainer where the foot pads trace out an elliptical path.

Parabolas describe the trajectories of fountain water steams, baseballs, and other projectiles moving through the air while being pulled downward by gravity. In addition, parabolic mirrors collect and reflect light waves. Such paraboloid shapes are found in flashlights, vehicle headlights, and reflecting telescopes. The iconic St. Louis Gateway Arch has a parabolic curve, as do many roller coaster tracks.

Hyperbolic curves have two symmetric parts as shown in the second cone diagram. A classic application is the hyperboloid shape of the cooling towers of power plants. This construction is lightweight, strong, and ideally suited for the large-scale condensation of steam. One also finds hyperbolic curves in the geometric design of guitars and hourglasses.

Long ago, the Creator asked Job rhetorical questions such as: "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? … Who marked off its dimensions?" (Job 38:4-5). These questions encompass the foundation of mathematics along with the establishment of gravity and conic sections, which are all part of making life possible on earth. CM

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Dr. Kevin L. Anderson

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CRS would be straining to maintain him as full-time director of the CRS lab. So, to relieve this strain and protect our investments, Kevin chose to take on a second job. From 2010 to 2015 he worked as an assistant professor of microbiology at Arkansas State University, and part-time as lab director for CRS. As a board, we were thrilled when we were able to relieve him of the burden of maintaining residences in two different states and bring him back as full-time lab director in Arizona.

Not long after that, Kevin realized that moving the lab to the campus Arizona Christian University (ACU) would benefit CRS. Again, he leveraged his skills as a teacher to negotiate a favorable contract, even though it required him to move his residence again. Then, he worked hard to successfully complete that move. Today, CRS has a beautiful facility on the campus of ACU that should serve The Society well for many years to come.

I was stunned when I learned in January that Kevin Anderson had died. He will be sorely missed. CRS still has the strong foundation Kevin worked tirelessly to fortify. I still have fond memories, such as shooting emails back and forth to write a co-authored editorial and letter to the editor for the *Quarterly* (Anderson and Lightner, 2016a and b). By God's grace CRS will continue forward. Would you be willing to join me now in praying that God would raise up many more creation researchers who can continue the legacy Dr. Kevin Anderson has left?

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. Psalm116:15 NIV

Kevin (right) oversees work in the CRS lab during phase II of iDINO. Workers include his son, Ryan (left) and another student.

Kevin and his wife, Diane, being recognized for their many years of service to CRS. The CRS president at the time, Don DeYoung (right), and Karen Locklair (left) made the presentation.

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CRSQ: *Creation Research Society Quarterly*

Anderson, K. and J. Lightner. 2016a. The challenge of Mount Improbable: A special Issue of *CRSQ*. *CRSQ* 52(4):244-248. Accessed 25 February 2022 from https://www.creationresearch.org/crsq-2016-volume-52-number-4_the-challenge-of-mount-improbable

Anderson, K. and J. Lightner. 2016b. Response to Perry Marshall. *CRSQ* 53(2):164-167.

Creation Research Society
Research is our middle name

Biblical History Can Aid Scientific Predictions

by Jean K. Lightner, DVM , MS

Q: You predicted that scientists would uncover mechanisms by which mutations are biased to be adaptive; has this happened?

A: Yes.

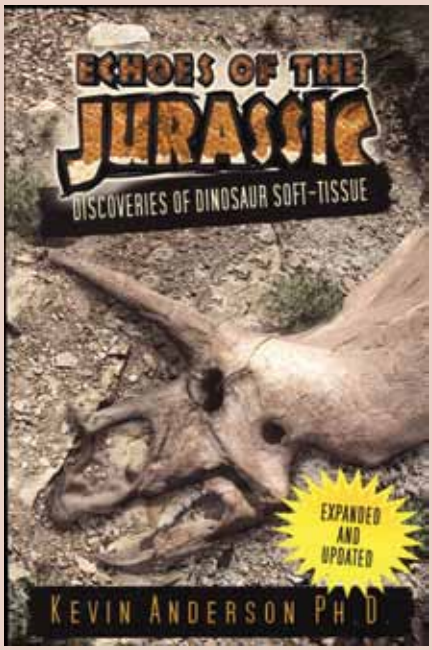
Let's discuss a little history to put things in context. The Modern Evolutionary Synthesis which emerged out of the 1940s had two proposed mechanisms that were claimed to account for adaption: random mutations and natural selection (NS). The source of new traits was attributed to random mutation; and NS made those new traits either more or less common, depending on how well they suited the organism in its environment.

These two mechanisms are mostly philosophical but were promoted as being scientific. Suggestions by eminent field biologists, such as Erich Wasmann (Wasmann, 1910) and L. S. Berg (Berg, 1969), that adaptation must be driven by something internal to the organism, were rejected. Neo-Darwinian thinking rejects such ideas which hint at purposiveness, as that would imply a Creator (see Theodosius Dobzhansky's forward in Berg, 1969).

Available in the CRS bookstore

Echoes of the Jurassic (Updated and Expanded)

By Kevin Anderson



The discovery of tissue and proteins still present in dinosaur fossils has significant implications for the entire world of science. If dinosaur fossils have been incorrectly dated, then almost certainly the dating of all fossils is wrong. In this expanded edition of Dr. Anderson's popular book, he discusses the evidence that shows the tissue is authentic and examines the arguments that attempt to explain how tissue and proteins could be preserved for millions of years. 96 pages

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When I first started suggesting that directed genetic changes (such as biased mutation) must be operating in the animals I was studying, I had no knowledge of the work of Wasmann or Berg. I could see that changes occurred far too rapidly to be accounted for by random mutation. Further, random mutation should result in many mutations causing unviability; this would result in serious fertility problems even in the best of environments. NS was invoked in ways suggesting it had "magical powers" that far exceeded anything the best farmer with the best records could hope to achieve in using artificial selection. The evolutionary historical narrative provided mechanisms that could not explain what I was seeing (Lightner, 2014).

In contrast, the biblical history provides a sound basis for believing in purposiveness in adaptation. Plants and animals were created according to their kinds and blessed so they could reproduce and fill the earth (Genesis 1). After the flood, the creatures on the Ark again needed to reproduce to fill the earth (Genesis 6-8). God created the earth to be inhabited (Isaiah 45:18), so it makes sense that He has endowed his creatures with what they need to adapt. The fall of Genesis 3 explains why it no longer happens perfectly, but that is a different topic.

I knew that DNA editing (designed genetic mutations) occurs in cells of the immune system. So, I decided to study an enzyme (AID) that cuts DNA so genetic changes can be made to form effective antibodies (Lightner, 2016). I reasoned that the design in making changes in the

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Summaries of Cutting-edge Research from *Creation Research Society Quarterly*

Summaries compiled by Jean K. Lightner, DVM, MS

It is crucial for creation research to investigate the world around us while engaging the current scientific literature and Scripture as we build the creation model in various scientific fields. CRS exists to support and publish such research. Only through high quality research can we equip Christians with strong, sound apologetic arguments that demonstrate the robustness of the creation model in understanding the world around us.

Baraminology: The Study of Created Kinds

Genesis 1 tells us that God created plant and animal life "according to their kinds." Baraminology, or the study of created kinds, attempts to identify which organism living today are related, being descended from the same kind of creature. In the Fall 2021 issue of the *Creation Research Society Quarterly* (*CRSQ*), Dr. Matthew Cserhati (2021) uses statistical baraminology techniques to answer the question "is the enigmatic red panda related to any other animals known today?"

In this study, several types of molecular data were used: whole genome sequences (WGS), mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), and a few individual genes. The groupings were not identical when the appropriate methods were applied to different data, and Cserhati takes some time to explore the question of why. This comparison provides an important study to advance our understanding of how to use statistical baraminology well, even while reminding us that we always need to consider multiple lines of evidence before being emphatic about our conclusions.

While baraminology begins by identifying groups of animals belonging to the same created kind, it certainly doesn't end there. Identifying these groups can help us understand variation that has arisen throughout natural history, as well as provide a basis for mapping dispersal from Ark. The Fall issue of the *CRSQ* also includes the final installment of Ahlquist and Lightner's (2021) series discussing baraminological strategies. In it they discuss relationships and propose a natural history on how landfowl may have dispersed and diversified after leaving the Ark.

Cserhati, M. 2021. Classification of the enigmatic red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) based on molecular baraminology-based analysis. *CRSQ* 58:76-84.

Ahlquist, J. and. J.K. Lightner. 2021. Strategies for more clearly delineating, characterizing, and inferring the natural history of baramins III: Evaluating relationships and proposing post-flood dispersal, with application to the order Galliformes (Class: Aves). *CRSQ* 58:113-128.

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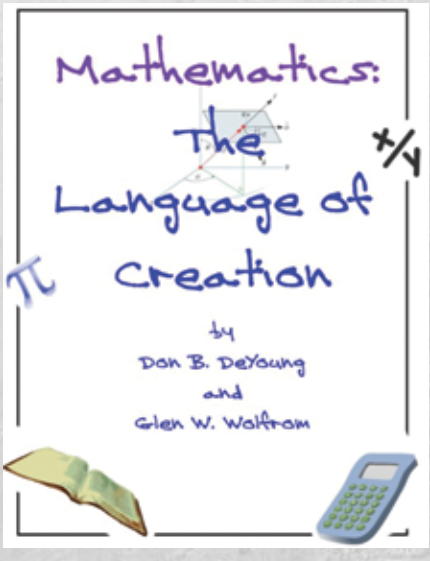
MATHEMATICS: THE LANGUAGE OF CREATION

Available in the CRS Bookstore

By Donald DeYoung and Glen Wolfrom

Can dogs perform calculus? Are there math errors in the Bible? Is there a Bible code? Is the number "13" unlucky? Who were some of the mathematics pioneers who were also dedicated Christians? Explore these questions and others in this handy ebook, a compilation of over 50 previous Math Matters articles.



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Biblical History

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immune system would have similarities to adaptive heritable changes.

In my article I suggested that "various factors will eventually be identified that govern the targeting of sites for mutagenesis and recruiting of appropriate proteins" in cells that contribute to the next generation (i.e., egg and sperm). I also suggested that epigenetics may play a role, as that was evident in immune cells.

This year a paper came out that directly tested the evolutionary conjecture that mutations are random with respect to their consequences (Monroe et al., 2022). Using the weed *Arabidopsis thaliana*, the causes, consequences, and adaptive value of mutation bias was investigated. They used methods that nearly eliminated the possibility that NS might be influencing the changes. What they found was amazing!

Mutations occur much less commonly in areas where they can cause damage. Mutations are more common in areas where they may be adaptive (e.g., genes involved in interacting with the environment). This bias in where the mutations occur is mostly explained by physical features and epigenetics. Wow! Wasmann and Berg were right! And so was I.

The implications are as follows. The contrived history of evolutionists failed to suggest mechanisms that explain adaptation. The biblical account of creation, in contrast, provided a rational basis for expecting adaptation to be purposeful.[1] This also displays God's wisdom and omniscience; he knew what his creatures would face and equipped them so the earth would be inhabited, despite the effects of the Fall. Finally, it displays God's kindness and concern. He did not leave adaptation to chance events. He provided for his creatures. What an awesome Creator we have!

How countless are Your works, LORD!
In wisdom You have made them all;
the earth is full of Your creatures. **Psalm 104:24 NIV**

1 Interestingly, Wasmann was a Jesuit who embraced the doctrine of creation. He wrote about how his observations were compatible with this biblical doctrine; I am unaware of Berg's view regarding biblical history.

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Berg, L. S. 1969. *Nomogenesis, or Evolution Determined by Law*. Translated from Russian by J. N. Rostovtsov from the original 1922 edition. Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press.

Lightner, J.K. 2014. Making predictions in biology using the YEC model. *Creation Matters* 19(1):1-4.

Lightner, J. 2016. Adaptive genetic changes by design: a look at the DNA editing by activation-induced cytidine deaminase (AID). *Creation Research Society Quarterly* 52(4):265-274.

Monroe, J.G., and 15 others. 2022. Mutation bias reflect natural selection in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Nature* 602(7895):101-105.

Wasmann, E. 1910. *Modern Biology and the Theory of Evolution*, translated from the third German edition by A.M. Buchanan, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., LTD, London https://archive.org/stream/modernbiologythe00wasmuoft#page/n5/mode/2up See, for example, pp. viii, 270, 300, 324, 347 CM

Arabdopsis thaliana is a weed in the cabbage family (Brassicaceae) that is commonly used in genetic research. Photo by Million_Moments. Downloaded from: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arabidopsis_thaliana.jpg

Cutting Edge Research

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Studying the Earth and Sky

A new series by Klevberg and Oard (2021) begins in the Fall issue of the *CRSQ*. It covers the Williston Basin in central North America. This first installment reviews the "evolution" of how the strata have been identified. Initially, index fossils were used to assign "ages" to various strata. This method carried an enormous amount of evolutionary baggage and did not make sense of observational evidence, such as the unconformities recognized in the region. Geologists then began to employ more physically based criteria, such as lithostratigraphy (which correlates rocks based on physical properties) and seismic data. Today the area is mapped almost entirely using sequence stratigraphy interpretations.

Readers might remember previous *CRSQ* articles considering megasequences and the Flood/post-Flood boundary (Clarey, 2017; Clarey and Werner, 2019). Klevberg and Oard (2021) discuss the importance of these sequences within the Williston basin. Other aspects of the geologic setting are also addressed to illustrate the weaknesses and strengths of the diluvial hypothesis of the basin's origin and history. For example, quartzite rocks have been found on top of the Williston Basin that likely originated in central Idaho--a clear diluvial signature. More details will be explored in future installments.

Sometimes the best way to chart a path forward may include a review of the past. This is what Andrew Repp (2021) has

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Cutting Edge Research

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begun to do in the fall issue of the *CRSQ*. He reviews the quantity of astronomical research since the inception of the *CRSQ* and noted that it has increased even as the number of creation science journals available to publish in has increased. He evaluates the breadth of astronomical topics and the credentials of those who publish.

Clarey, T.L. 2017. Local catastrophes or receding floodwater? Global geologic data that refute a K-Pg (K-T) Flood/post-Flood boundary. *CRSQ* 52:100–120.

Clarey, T.L. and D.J. Werner. 2019. Compelling evidence for an upper Cenozoic Flood/post-Flood boundary: Paleogene and Neogene marine sediment completely surround Turkey. *CRSQ* 56:68–75

Klevberg, P. and M. Oard. 2021. Petrified ideas of the Williston Basin. *CRSQ* 58:85-103.

Repp, A. 2021. Fifty-seven years of creation astronomy, Part I: A survey. *CRSQ* 58:104-112.

… if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,
and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,
then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. **Proverbs 2:3-6 NIV** CM

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this will be

Your final issue of

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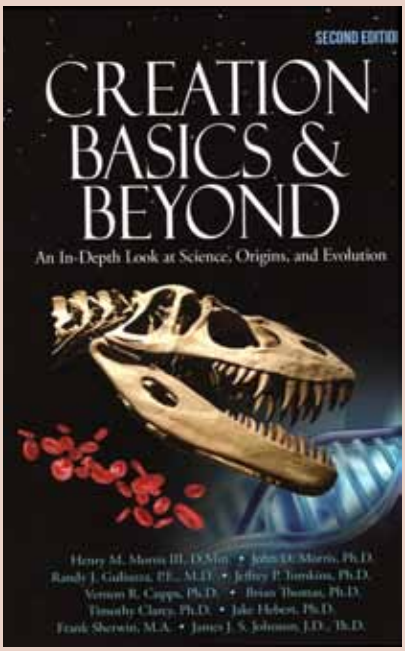
Creation Basics and Beyond 2nd Edition



A semi-technical guide to scientific evidence for creation. Written by staff scientists at ICR, the topics include design in the cell, the fallacy of junk DNA, the origin of races, age of the universe, and the dating of fossils. This book provides useful information for those seeking a deeper technical understanding of creation science. 348 pages.

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Prayer Matters

Praise: We thank God for all your prayers and support!

Prayer: The passing of Kevin Anderson was sudden and unexpected. Please pray for Diane and other family members. Also, pray for CRS as we seek a new lab director who can effectively teach and oversee the lab. We are praying to find the right person (or people) so the iDINO research project can move strongly forward.

Thanks Again!

The Creation Research Society (CRS)

For nearly 60 years, CRS has pursued and supported original research verifying the creation model of origins as a means to reveal the Creator. Research is our middle name!

- **CRS conducts research.**
- **CRS funds research.**
- **CRS holds a research conference where researchers can present research.**
- **CRS publishes research.**

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